

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1     1.     A container and lid assembly comprising:
  - 2                 a base;
  - 3                 a container body having a generally tapered wall structure extending upwardly
  - 4                 from the base defining a compartment therein;
  - 5                 a lid having a flexible peripheral portion that is collapsibly deformable as the lid
  - 6                 is moved along a predetermined range within the compartment.
  
- 1     2.     The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the peripheral portion at  
2     least partially circumscribes a central portion of the lid.
  
- 1     3.     The container and lid assembly of claim 2 wherein the peripheral portion  
2     includes an outer portion that abuts an inner surface of the wall structure and wherein  
3     the outer portion is moved toward the central portion as the lid is moved toward the  
4     base.
  
- 1     4.     The container and lid assembly of claim 3 further including a hinge portion  
2     between the outer portion and the lid.
  
- 1     5.     The container and lid assembly of claim 4 wherein the hinge portion includes  
2     a portion of reduced thickness.
  
- 1     6.     The container and lid assembly of claim 2 further including a handle formed in  
2     the central portion.

1       7.     The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the flexible portion includes  
2     a plurality of alternating upwardly and downwardly extending portions.

1       8.     The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the flexible portion further  
2     includes an upper surface which would abut a base of a like container stacked thereon  
3     to urge the flexible portion outwardly against an inner surface of the wall structure.

1       9.     A lid arranged for receipt within a container having a tapered wall structure and  
2     base, the lid comprising a peripheral portion and a central portion integrally attached  
3     to each other, the peripheral portion being collapsibly deformable toward the central  
4     portion as the lid is movably oriented within the container toward the base.

1       10.    The lid of claim 9 wherein the peripheral portion at least partially circumscribes  
2     the central portion of the lid.

1       11.    The lid of claim 10 wherein the peripheral portion includes an outer portion that  
2     is movable toward the central portion of the lid as the peripheral portion is collapsibly  
3     deformed.

1       12.    The lid of claim 11 further including a hinge portion connecting the outer  
2     portion to the lid.

1       13.    The lid of claim 10 wherein the hinge portion includes a portion of reduced  
2     thickness.

1       14.     The lid of claim 9 wherein the flexible portion includes a plurality of alternating  
2     upwardly and downwardly extending portions.

1       15.     The lid of claim 9 further including a handle formed in the central portion.

1       16.     The lid of claim 9 wherein the flexible portion further includes an upper surface  
2     that would abut a base of a container stacked thereon, thereby urging the flexible  
3     portion outwardly away from the central portion.

1       17.     A container and lid assembly comprising:  
2              a base;  
3              a container body having a container wall extending upwardly and outwardly  
4     from the base to define a compartment therein;  
5              a lid having a central portion and flexible portion, the flexible portion including  
6     an outer portion for abutting an inner surface of the container wall, the flexible portion  
7     permitting movement of the outer portion toward the central portion as the lid is  
8     moved toward the base in the compartment.

1       18.     The container and lid assembly of claim 17 wherein the flexible portion urges  
2     the outer portion toward the inner surface of the container wall.

1       19.     The container and lid assembly of claim 17 further including a like container  
2     stacked on the lid and abutting the flexible portion to urge the outer portion against the  
3     inner surface of the container wall.

- 1      20.     The container and lid assembly of claim 17 wherein the central portion further
- 2     includes a handle.